



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

MARCH – JUNE 2012



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SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, commonly called the "Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act", celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2012.

This landmark legislation, which helped create the most successful model for wildlife management in the world, is America's greatest conservation story. It provided a stable funding source to halt the unsustainable harvest of wildlife, prevent the destruction of habitat, and bring back many species from the brink of extinction.

In a cooperative partnership with state and federal agencies, manufacturers pay excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and other gear, and pass on the cost of the tax to sportsmen. Money deposited in the P-R Trust Fund is then apportioned back to the states on a formula basis, paying up to 75 percent of the cost of approved projects. In 2010 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that about \$3.2 billion in federal aid has been generated through the program.

In Kentucky, P-R funds were used to



Nathan Sangster photo

acquire about 47,000 acres, improve habitat for quail, bring back the wild turkey and white-tailed deer, and introduce elk into suitable habitat in Appalachia. It also pays for disease surveillance, and other research and inventories important to population monitoring and management.

We use P-R funds to run our hunter education program, and give the youth at our conservation camps the opportunity to shoot rifles, shotguns and bows and arrows, as required to earn their hunter education certification.

The success of these programs, financed through P-R, has helped our department, and agencies in other states, become some of the most respected in the U.S.

Take a friend, family member or youth hunting this spring and tell them how a cooperative partnership between sportsmen, state wildlife agencies, the outdoors industry and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helped finance America's greatest conservation story.

— Dr. Jonathan Gassett

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

"To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife related activities."

WHO WE ARE

Created as the Kentucky Game and Fish Commission on March 12, 1912, the agency known today as the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was established in its present form by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1944. An agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, the department today has about 500 full-time employees.

WHAT WE DO

Through the decades the department's role has expanded to include managing both game and non-game fish and wildlife resources, creating regulations, enforcing wildlife and boating laws, hatching, rearing and stocking fish, assisting landowners

with fish and wildlife habitat improvement, educating youth about the importance of fish and wildlife and their habitats, stream restoration, passing on the heritage of archery and shooting sports, buying land for public use, and building boat ramps for angler access to the state's public waterways.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, a nine-member citizens board selected by licensed hunters and anglers, and appointed by the Governor, meets quarterly in Frankfort to make policy decisions. With input from the agency's director, program administrators and staff biologists, the Commission adopts regulations that must meet with the approval of the Kentucky General Assembly.

OUR BUDGET

The department's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2012 is \$48.8 million.

Revenue sources are: the sale of hunting and fishing licenses (50%), boat registration fees (7%), matching federal funds (35%), interest income (1%), program income (2%), and miscellaneous receipts, including tax check-off (5%).

Budgeted expenditures are: capital projects and land acquisition (12%), administration (11%), wildlife (26%), fisheries (17%), information and education (11%), and law enforcement (23%).

The department receives no tax dollars from the state's General Fund.

March - June 2012



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Brian Clark photo

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of hunting laws, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation. Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Informational guides are also produced for fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting, and fishing and boating. The dove and early waterfowl hunting guide is available in early August. The regular season waterfowl hunting guide is available in early November. These guides are available wherever licenses are sold, and they are posted online at fw.ky.gov.

NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in bright blue throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA

2,221 acres, Meade County

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey season, except that hunting ends at 12 noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season.

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Rick Hill photo

SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

March 1 through May 31, it is illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes). This regulation does not apply to normal agricultural practices or food plots, or municipal areas not open to legal hunting or trapping.

PRE-SEASON CALLING

Beginning March 1, and until the opening of the youth-only and general spring seasons, it is illegal to mimic the sound of a turkey in an area open to hunting if turkeys are reasonably expected to be present. But locating turkeys with an owl, crow, coyote, or woodpecker call is permitted when scouting.

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Turkey	April 7-8	April 14 - May 6

Both the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons are open state-wide. A hunting license and spring turkey permit is required unless the hunter is license exempt. See page 10 for license and permit requirements.

YOUTH-ONLY SEASON

The youth-only hunting weekend opens on the first Saturday in April. This year the season dates are April 7-8.

The youth-only hunting weekend is open to hunters 15 years of age or younger, but youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year, if they are purchased before the youth's 16th birthday.

Youth who hunt turkeys with a shotgun must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. The adult must remain in position to take immediate control of the youth's shotgun at all times.

Adults who accompany youth hunters during this season are not required to have a hunting license or turkey permit.

GENERAL STATEWIDE SEASON

The general season opens on the Saturday closest to April 15 and lasts 23 days. This year the season dates are April 14 - May 6.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for the spring turkey seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours. Hunters take note that on KDFWR properties, or other public hunting areas, shooting hours may differ.

BAG LIMITS

A hunter may take a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard. No

more than one (1) bird may be taken per day. No more than two (2) birds may be taken per season. Any combination of male turkeys, or female turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit. Turkeys taken by youth during the youth-only season count toward the spring turkey bag limit.

TELECHECK

All harvested turkeys must be logged and telechecked as outlined on pages 14-15.

CALLER / ASSISTANT

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt, for a legal hunter. Callers and assistants don't have to possess hunting licenses or turkey permits if they are calling without the intent to shoot a turkey, and may carry equipment while in the field.

HUNTER ORANGE

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during the spring turkey seasons. However, wear-

ing an article of hunter orange clothing when carrying a harvested turkey is a simple and effective way to help prevent mistaken for game hunting accidents.

POSSESSION OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS AND EGGS / RELEASE OF WILD TURKEYS

Due to the potential for spread of disease and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. It is also illegal to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs.

It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed during any time of the year. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative.

TAIL FANS, SPURS AND BEARDS

Inedible parts from harvested wild turkeys, including tail fans, beards and spurs, may only be bought from or sold to licensed taxidermists for the purpose of mounting. This includes online auctions and direct sales on websites.

PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunters with Physical Disabilities" on page 14).
- Take a roosting turkey.
- Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device.
- Use live decoys.
- Hunt over bait. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exist as the result of bona fide agricultural practice or manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose is legal for turkey hunting.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

It is illegal for any person to take game with equipment that is contrary to the restrictions outlined in this guide. Hunters may only use the following to take turkeys during the spring seasons:

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge and no smaller than 20-gauge.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows, of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows, of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide, which aren't barbed, chemically-treated, or have attachments that contain chemicals.

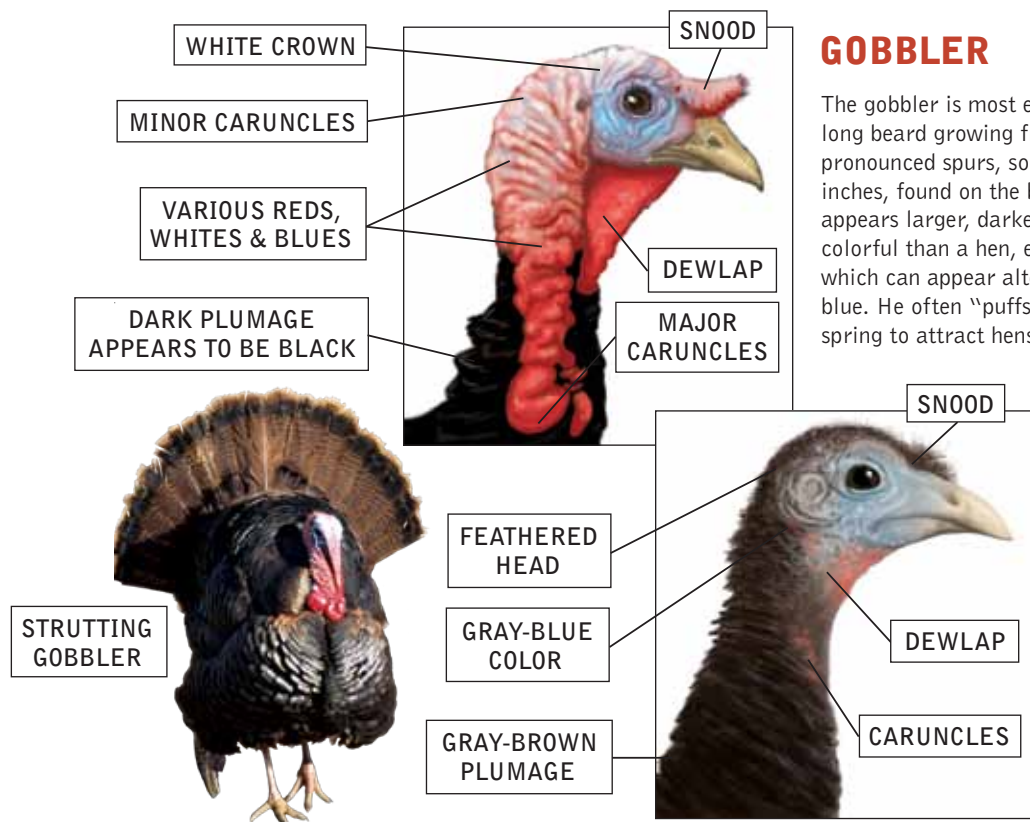
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GOBBLER / HEN IDENTIFICATION



GOBBLER

The gobbler is most easily recognized by the long beard growing from his chest, and the pronounced spurs, sometimes as long as two inches, found on the back of his legs. A gobbler appears larger, darker, shinier and is more colorful than a hen, especially on his head, which can appear alternately red, white and blue. He often "puffs up" and struts during spring to attract hens for breeding.

HEN

The hen's overall look is for concealment and protection. She is smaller and more drab than the colorful gobbler, so she can sit on her nest well camouflaged. Likewise, her head has more feathers to add to her camouflaged appearance.

Based on information and graphics from the National Wild Turkey Federation website, which can be viewed at www.nwtf.org.

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

1. Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and your chances of becoming involved in an accident increase.
2. Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit: t-shirts, socks, long underwear and kerchiefs. Red or white are the colors hunters are looking for when differentiating a gobbler's head from the hen's grayish blue-colored head. These colors not only put you in danger, but they can be seen by turkeys as well.
3. Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice "Hey, I'm here," and remain hidden.
4. Be particularly careful when using a gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters, and could draw fire.
5. When selecting your calling position, sit at the base of a large tree, if one is available, to protect your torso and head. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
6. Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be 100 percent sure of your target. Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
7. When hunting with a turkey decoy, place the decoy about 20 yards from your calling position. To be safe you need a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This will enable you to see any approaching hunter and keep you at a safe distance if another hunter were to shoot at your decoy.
8. Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field, and open the action or unload your shotgun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over low fence wire, or fording a creek.
9. After bagging a turkey, put on an article of hunter orange while carrying the bird out of the woods.

Register your turkey!

For information about registering your turkey with the official NWTF records system, log on to www.nwtf.org or contact National Wild Turkey Federation, Attn: Wild Turkey Records, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824-0530, telephone: (803) 637-3106.



James Inman photo

SQUIRREL HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season
Squirrel	May 19-June 15

The spring squirrel season in Kentucky, which started as an experiment on four state wildlife management areas in 1994, went statewide in 1999. The season opens on the third Saturday in May, is 28 days long, and continues through the third Friday in June.

This year, the season dates are May 19 - June 15.

A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

Squirrels are Kentucky's most stable and abundant small game species.

The spring season opens after the first of two nesting periods. Young squirrels leave the nest after 45 days, to venture off on their own. Litters are typically three to four squirrels.

The gray squirrel is the dominant species in the eastern third of Kentucky, with a higher percentage of fox squirrels in far western Kentucky. Gray squirrels are most often found in large tracts of forest lands. Fox squirrels prefer small

woodlots and wooded fencerows of agricultural areas.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for the spring squirrel season are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

BAG LIMIT

Daily limit is 6 squirrels; possession limit is 12.

PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping squirrels is prohibited during the spring season.
- Hunting squirrels during any season with slingshots or blowguns is prohibited.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

It is illegal for any person to take game with equipment that is contrary to the restrictions outlined in this guide. Hunters may only use the following to take squirrels during the spring season:

- Rifles that shoot rimfire ammunition, or .22 caliber handguns.
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20 or .22 caliber airguns.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.



Dan Crank photo

COYOTES and OTHER WILDLIFE

HUNTING and TRAPPING SEASONS

SPECIES	Season
Coyote, Groundhog & Wild Pig	Year-round, hunting license required, unless exempt.

Coyotes, groundhogs and wild pigs may be hunted statewide, year-round, with no bag limit. Groundhogs may also be trapped year-round. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

COYOTE

Coyotes may not be hunted at night. Hand or mouth-operated calls, and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal. It is also legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses.

WILD PIG

Wild pigs out-compete native wildlife for food, damage crops, and carry diseases. Landowners are strongly encouraged to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping, which is legal year-round, is the most effective method of removal. Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. It is illegal to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky.

Report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, and get advice on trapping by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

Wild pigs may be hunted in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, but hunters must have a permit from the National Park Service.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following to take coyotes, wild pigs, groundhogs, and exotic species of wildlife:

- Muzzle-loading rifle, modern rifle, or handgun of any caliber, with no restriction on magazine capacity.
- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, shooting any size lead or non-toxic shot, including buckshot. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in the magazine and one in the chamber).
- Archery and crossbow equipment.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.
- Falconry (Sept. 1 through March 30).

OTHER WILDLIFE

BIRDS

Exotic, non-native birds (pheasant, chukar, English sparrow, starling, and Eurasian collared dove) may be hunted year-round without a hunting license, with no bag limit.

However, pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River WMA and Clay WMA.

All birds of prey and songbirds are protected under state and federal laws.

HOOFED STOCK

Exotic, non-native hoofed stock,

except white-tailed deer and elk, may be hunted year-round without a hunting license, and with no bag limit or checking requirement.

However, the fallow deer on Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area are not open to year-round hunting.

MAMMALS

All species of mice, moles and rats are unprotected species and may be taken year-round without a hunting license.

However, the spotted skunk,

a rare species found in eastern and southeastern Kentucky, is protected and may not be taken.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

All threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

All species of terrestrial invertebrates (such as worms and insects) are unprotected and may be taken year-round without a hunting license.

Watch Tim Farmer on "Kentucky Afield"

KET 1: Sat., 8:30 p.m. ET/7:30 CT and Sun., 4:30 p.m. ET/3:30 CT.
Watch online at youtube.com/kyafield.





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John Brunjes photo

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

KENTUCKY FISH and WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

This page lists WMAs where special regulations are in effect for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. If you plan to hunt on any of these areas, make note of the differences from statewide regulations.

When hunting on WMAs respect the boundaries of adjoining private lands, be courteous, don't trespass, and keep safety in mind.

Horseback riding on WMAs is prohibited during firearms seasons for turkeys.

All department-owned or managed WMAs are open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and squirrel hunting seasons, with the following exceptions:

BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA **8,790 acres** **Barren and Allen counties**

All areas are open under statewide regulations for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons and spring squirrel season, with one exception.

On the Peninsula Unit (including Narrows, Goose and Grass Islands), modern (breech-loading) firearms may not be used during any season.

HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA **5,450 acres, Union County**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey

hunters may only use archery gear and crossbows (with hunting methods exemption permit). Open for spring squirrel season under statewide regulations.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WMA AND STATE NATURAL AREA **1,898 acres, Livingston County**

Open for the youth-only turkey season. Open to youth hunters only during the general spring turkey season. Open for spring squirrel season.

OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA **2,221 acres, Meade County**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey season, except that hunting ends at 12 noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season.

PAUL VAN BOOVEN WMA **2,293 acres, Breathitt County**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons and spring squirrel season, except the area is closed to vehicle access from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

PEABODY WMA **46,557 acres, Ohio, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties**

Hunters are reminded that a Peabody WMA user permit (\$15) is required for

anyone 16 years of age and older entering the property for any recreational purpose.

PIONEER WEAPONS WMA **7,731 acres** **Bath and Menifee counties**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons and spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use modern (breech-loading) firearms, and in-line muzzleloading firearms. Muzzleloaders may not be equipped with scopes or optical enhancements (sighting devices other than open or "iron" sights).

ROBINSON FOREST WMA **12,304 acres** **Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties**

The main block of this WMA is closed to all turkey and squirrel hunting. The remainder of the WMA is open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons and spring squirrel season.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA **6,560 acres, McCracken County**

Open for the youth-only turkey season. Closed for the general spring turkey season. Open for spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use rifles, or ball or slug ammunition. Tracts marked with the letter "A" are closed to turkey and squirrel hunting. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic Feb. 1 - Apr. 16.

OTHER AREAS

The following lands are not owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, and the dates of spring hunts may differ. Advanced registration may be required. Contact the appropriate agency for details. Some areas require paper licenses and have different hunter education requirements.

Seasons on military installations are subject to change based on training exercises and other activities. Some areas offer “bonus” birds that do not count against the statewide season bag limit, but hunters must possess a valid hunting license and turkey permit to participate.

Active duty military may be license exempt on some areas.

BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT **14,517 acres, Madison County** Richmond, KY 40475-5010

Application period for spring turkey hunts is July of the previous year. For information contact Office of Morale, Welfare & Recreation by calling (859) 779-6464 or 779-6403. Background check required if selected. Birds

taken are bonus birds. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted.

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **8,265 acres, Graves, Marshall and McCracken counties**

(270) 527-5770
P.O. Box 89, Benton, KY 42025

Open under statewide regulations for spring squirrel and turkey seasons. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Refuge user permit required.

FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION **36,113 acres** **Christian and Trigg counties**

(270) 798-2175
Outdoor Recreation Branch, Bldg. 6645, 101st Airborne Div. Rd., Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000

Post permit required. Birds taken are bonus birds. Call for dates. No spring squirrel hunting. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted.

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION **108,618 acres** **Bullitt, Meade and Hardin counties**

(502) 624-7311

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Contact Ft. Knox for dates by calling (502) 624-7311, or visit their website at: www.knox.army.mil/fw

Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Ages 60 and under must have hunter education card, or hunter education exemption permit.

HIDDEN VALLEY TRAINING AREA **551 acres, Powell County**

Closed to youth-only and general spring turkey seasons. Closed to spring squirrel season.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (LBL) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA **107,594 acres**

Trigg and Lyon counties
(270) 924-2065
100 Van Morgan Drive
Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001

Area user permit required. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Call LBL for dates.

REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

2,043 acres, Fulton County
(731) 538-2481
4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261

Quota hunts early April by advance application. Birds taken are bonus birds. No spring squirrel hunting.

Maps and information

For maps and information on WMAs and other public hunting areas, go online to fw.ky.gov. Then click Maps and Online Services.



Don't forget... Telecheck your game – it's the law!



Brian Clark photo

GENERAL INFORMATION

LICENSES and PERMITS

All turkey hunters, except those who are license exempt, are required to purchase and carry with them in the field a Kentucky hunting license and spring turkey permit while hunting during the spring seasons. An annual hunting license is required. Short-term (1- or 5-day) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting.

License and permit fees are listed on page 13.

All squirrel hunters, unless license exempt, are required to possess a Kentucky hunting license.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and filled out before going afield. Licenses, permits, license authorization numbers and carcass tags are non-transferable.

Lose your license? Replacement licenses can be printed on the department's website fw.ky.gov at no cost.

RESIDENT

A Kentucky resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to purchasing a license.

NONRESIDENTS

Those who do not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident are required to purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

A nonresident who owns land in

Kentucky must buy nonresident licenses and permits.

YOUTH

Both resident and nonresident hunters under the age of 12 are license exempt, not required to purchase hunting licenses or turkey permits. Persons under 12 years old who hunt any species must be accompanied by an adult, if they have not passed a hunter education course.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year, if they are purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Once a hunter turns 16 years of age, he or she is no longer eligible to buy youth hunting licenses and permits.

Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkeys with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult.

A youth hunting license shall not be issued without the written permission of a parent or guardian, or person having custody of the youth hunter, who shall sign the youth hunter's license to signify consent.

STUDENT

Anyone enrolled for at least six (6) months in an educational institution as a full-time student is considered a resident, and therefore eligible to purchase resident licenses and permits.

RESIDENT LANDOWNERS, TENANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The following persons are license exempt, not required to purchase licenses or permits:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands.
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where they reside and work.

But, hunting licenses and permits are required if they hunt somewhere other than their own property or the property where they reside and work.

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABLED (see chart on page 11)

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Members of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces on permanent assignment in Kentucky are considered residents and are eligible to purchase resident licenses and permits.

Hidden Valley Training Area, a 551-acre Kentucky National Guard property in Powell County, is closed to turkey hunting during all seasons and is closed to spring squirrel hunting.

Kentucky residents on leave for more than three days who carry military identification and leave papers that verify their status may hunt or fish in Kentucky without licenses or permits.

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABLED LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the \$5 Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting and Fishing License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus bonus deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Contact your local Social Security office and request a form showing your name, address, Social Security number and date of birth, which states that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Contacting us

Except for those who qualify for a Disability License through Worker's Compensation, mail or fax your disability certification to:

KDFWR Disability License
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
FAX: (502) 564-9845

- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **State Worker's Compensation Board:** Request an application from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, fill it out and send it to the State Worker's Compensation Board.
- **United States Railroad Retirement Board:** Contact the Board and request a letter stating you are 100% totally and permanently disabled. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **Kentucky Teacher Retirement System:** Contact the Teacher Retirement System and request written documentation stating you are on disability retirement. Send documentation to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **United States Office of Personnel Management:** Contact the federal Office of Personnel Management and

obtain certification of employment and documentation of being 100% disabled. Send documentation to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail. The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed. Consult the Which Permit Do I Need tables on page 12.

If you are still unsure what license or permit you should buy, call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the state at about 900 locations, including country stores, some county court clerk offices, local hunting and fishing businesses, and some chain stores that sell outdoor sporting goods. License vendor locations are listed on the department's website: fw.ky.gov.

OVER THE TELEPHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased

over the telephone 24 hours a day, by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401.

Persons purchasing by phone:

- Must use Visa, Mastercard, Discover card, or e-check (electronic transfer from checking account);
- Will be charged a small fee;
- Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
- Will be issued an authorization number which serves as a license/permit until paper license/permit is issued; and
- Will be issued a paper license/permit by mail, if requested
- Must have the authorization number in addition to a picture ID while hunting, if they have not yet received their paper license/permit in the mail.

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a disabled

license, elk lottery application and all youth licenses and permits, can be purchased over the telephone.

ON THE INTERNET

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a Joint Husband/Wife Fishing License, can be purchased on the department's website: fw.ky.gov.

Persons purchasing online:

- Must use Visa, Mastercard or Discover card;
- Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
- Must print their own paper license/permit at the end of their purchase;
- Will not receive a paper license/permit in the mail.

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below are a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for exemptions and complete residency, licensing

and hunter education requirements. All elk and bear hunting requirements are explained in the fall Hunting & Trapping Guide, available in July.

Also: See page 11 for Senior/Disabled License eligibility.

NOTE: Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for kids under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird or Kentucky Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird or Kentucky Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License

Q: Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy nonresident licenses and permits?

A: Yes. **All** nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

Other laws still apply!

All hunters, including those who are license-exempt or eligible to purchase reduced-price licenses, must abide by all other regulations as outlined in this guide.

Q: Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?

A: Yes. Multiple Youth Turkey Permits may be purchased, but season bag limits must be followed.

LICENSE and PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20.00	\$50.00
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36.00	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7.00	\$10.00
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30.00
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40.00
	Trout Permit	\$10.00	
	Annual Hunting	\$20.00	\$130.00
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7.00	\$10.00
	5-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$40.00
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$5.00	
	Shooting Preserve License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.00	
	Annual Trapping	\$20.00	\$130.00
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10.00	Not available
	Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5.00	Not available
COMBO LICENSES	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30.00	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus bonus antlerless-only deer permits.)	\$5.00	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95.00	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, youth deer permit and youth turkey permit.)	\$25.00	
DEER	Deer Permit (statewide) (two deer)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10.00	
	Bonus Antlerless-Only Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15.00	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.00	
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Kentucky Waterfowl Permit	\$15.00	
	Migratory Bird Permit	\$10.00	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$15.00	
ELK	Elk Lottery Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10.00	
	Youth WMA Elk Lottery (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10.00	
	Elk Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$30.00	\$365.00
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit	\$30.00	\$365.00
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15.00	
	Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$20.00	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3.00, annual: \$30.00, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7.00, annual: \$70.00	
OTHER	Bear Permit	\$30.00	Not available
	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.00	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bonus antlerless-only deer permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included.

Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually. A 1-day or 5-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk lottery application).

OTHER HUNTING REGULATIONS

HUNTER EDUCATION

Kentucky's Hunter Education Law became mandatory in 1991.

It states that all hunters, if required to purchase a Kentucky hunting license and born on or after January 1, 1975, must carry a valid hunter education course completion card in the field while hunting. License exempt hunters are not required to meet hunter education certification.

Hunter education cards obtained from other states are valid in Kentucky.

Hunter education courses are held around the state throughout the year. A course schedule is available at fw.ky.gov or by calling 1-800-858-1549. Children cannot take the hunter education test until they are nine years old.

APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit for \$5 online at fw.ky.gov.

This apprentice hunting opportunity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully

complete a hunter education course. The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky, and is not accepted at Bluegrass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses, and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

A bowhunter not in possession of a firearm while hunting may carry a valid National Bowhunter Education Program course completion card instead of the hunter education card.

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to hunt, trap or fish without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

A hunter may not retrieve game from another person's land without the landowner's permission.

HUNTERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

The department grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities to use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform, or hunt with a crossbow.

However, persons with qualifying

Youth supervision

Adults must accompany hunters ages 15 and under who hunt turkeys with a shotgun. The adult shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician.

The Hunting Methods Exemption forms are available online at fw.ky.gov or by calling the department at 1-800-858-1549.

The completed exemption form serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department. Persons who obtain an exemption are still required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits, and must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

Anyone may report wildlife law violators anonymously by calling 1-800-25-ALERT (1-800-252-5378). Calls come in to dispatchers at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife headquarters in Frankfort, who relay the information to conservation officers in the field.

CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but only persons with valid concealed carry deadly weapon permits may carry their firearms concealed.

HARVEST LOG, TELECHECK and CARCASS TAG

All successful turkey hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log for each turkey they harvest, and all harvested turkeys must be telechecked by midnight on the same day that they are taken.

HARVEST LOG

Hunters are required to write information

about their harvested turkey on a harvest log as soon as the bird is taken and before it is moved.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit, or hunters may obtain a blank log sheet from a license dealer.

License exempt hunters, youth under 12 years of age, and those who

only have a license authorization number, may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or note card.

Log information should be written in ink.

Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species of animal taken, date, county of harvest,

sex of the animal and telecheck confirmation number.

TELECHECK

Telecheck, a toll-free, automated phone-in check system which debuted in 1999, gives biologists instant access to data for real-time monitoring of the harvest as the season progresses.

Checking your turkey takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful.

To Telecheck (report) a harvested turkey call toll-free 1-800-245-4263.

Additionally, hunters may check-in online. Visit the department's website at fw.ky.gov from a home computer or laptop, or a phone with a web browser, and follow the prompts.

Telecheck is in service 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Lis-

Telecheck:
1-800-CHK-GAME
(1-800-245-4263)

ten to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch-tone phone.

Hunters will be asked for their Social Security number and the code for the county in which the turkey was taken.

The county code chart appears below.

Other questions include: the animal's species and sex, type of equipment used, whether the land was private or public, what type of license was used, and if the caller is a landowner.

Once the harvest information has been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold while the system submits the survey information.

Then the hunter will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested turkey was legally reported.

CARCASS TAG

A carcass tag must be attached to any harvested turkey that leaves the hunter's possession. Meat processors and taxidermists are prohibited by law from accepting any harvested turkey or parts of a harvested turkey without a carcass tag attached.

Information that must be written on the carcass tag includes the hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

KENTUCKY COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK

001	Adair	025	Clark	049	Harrison	073	McCracken	097	Perry
002	Allen	026	Clay	050	Hart	074	McCreary	098	Pike
003	Anderson	027	Clinton	051	Henderson	075	McLean	099	Powell
004	Ballard	028	Crittenden	052	Henry	076	Madison	100	Pulaski
005	Barren	029	Cumberland	053	Hickman	077	Magoffin	101	Robertson
006	Bath	030	Daviess	054	Hopkins	078	Marion	102	Rockcastle
007	Bell	031	Edmonson	055	Jackson	079	Marshall	103	Rowan
008	Boone	032	Elliott	056	Jefferson	080	Martin	104	Russell
009	Bourbon	033	Estill	057	Jessamine	081	Mason	105	Scott
010	Boyd	034	Fayette	058	Johnson	082	Meade	106	Shelby
011	Boyle	035	Fleming	059	Kenton	083	Menifee	107	Simpson
012	Bracken	036	Floyd	060	Knott	084	Mercer	108	Spencer
013	Breathitt	037	Franklin	061	Knox	085	Metcalfe	109	Taylor
014	Breckinridge	038	Fulton	062	LaRue	086	Monroe	110	Todd
015	Bullitt	039	Gallatin	063	Laurel	087	Montgomery	111	Trigg
016	Butler	040	Garrard	064	Lawrence	088	Morgan	112	Trimble
017	Caldwell	041	Grant	065	Lee	089	Muhlenberg	113	Union
018	Calloway	042	Graves	066	Leslie	090	Nelson	114	Warren
019	Campbell	043	Grayson	067	Letcher	091	Nicholas	115	Washington
020	Carlisle	044	Green	068	Lewis	092	Ohio	116	Wayne
021	Carroll	045	Greenup	069	Lincoln	093	Oldham	117	Webster
022	Carter	046	Hancock	070	Livingston	094	Owen	118	Whitley
023	Casey	047	Hardin	071	Logan	095	Owsley	119	Wolfe
024	Christian	048	Harlan	072	Lyon	096	Pendleton	120	Woodford